



**STATE OF DELAWARE**  
**Child Death, Near Death and Stillbirth Commission**

**FINAL MINUTES**

**Meeting Date and Time:** December 5, 2014 at 1:00 PM

**Meeting Location:** Appoquinimink State Service Center in Middletown, DE

**In Attendance:**

**Commissioners:**

Ms. Margaret Rose Agostino  
Ms. Aleks Casper  
Mr. Malcolm Cochran  
Dr. Garrett H. C. Colmorgen, Chair  
Ms. Mary Ann Crosley  
Ms. Tania Culley, Esquire  
Dr. Gerard Gallucci  
Mr. Mawuna Gardesey  
Ms. Marjorie Hershberger  
Judge Joelle Hitch  
Dr. Vicky Kelly  
Ms. Mary Ann Mieczkowski  
Ms. Deborah Alioto Miller  
Ms. Leslie Newman  
Cpl. Adrienne Owen  
Dr. Philip Shlossman  
Lt. Teresa Williams  
Ms. Janice Mink

**Others:**

Ms. Rosalie Morales  
Ms. Ashlee Starratt

**CDNDSC Staff:**

Ms. Anne Pedrick  
Ms. Angela Birney  
Ms. Christine Purnell  
Ms. Courtney Rapone

## **I. Call to Order**

Dr. Garrett H. C. Colmorgen called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and introductions were made.

## **II. Old Business**

- a. **Minutes.** The general meeting minutes from September 12, 2014, were accepted.
- b. **Mandatory Reporting Policy Update.** Anne Pedrick, Marjorie Hershberger, Linda Shannon, Tania Culley, Dr. Amanda Kay, Janice Tigani, and Rosalie Morales met in November. A draft edition has been submitted for edit and remains in the revision phase. Once complete, will be submitted to the Division of Professional Regulation

## **III. New Business**

- a. **Annual Report.** Edits and recommendations will be accepted until December 11<sup>th</sup>. The goal is to have the report published electronically before the holidays, target date is December 20<sup>th</sup>. Report approved with one abstention.
- b. **CDR Reviews.** An issue has been identified whereas agency representatives are not attending the Panel reviews, or not properly preparing for such reviews. The Commissioners were asked to meet with and stress to their agency representative the importance of attending the meetings, prepared, as cases cannot be completed causing an increase in deferred cases thus creating a backlog with CDNDSC. This is especially important with the NCC Panel as restructuring to the SDY Panel will cause those cases to be referred to the K/S Panel, increasing that Panel's workload. The NCC Panel will be extended through February to help alleviate such workload.

A second issue discussed was that the CAN Panel does not receive law enforcement reports ahead of the scheduled meeting for review as they do with other agency reports; however, it was noted that this was part of the agreement for allowing CDNDSC to have access to DELJIS, reports can only be viewed at the meeting, and not distributed. The final Panel issue referred to medical record abstraction not being completed prior to initial review of CAN cases. The Commission advised that cases will not be scheduled for initial review until such abstractions have been completed. This issue along with case backlog is being addressed by the CDNDSC Executive Committee. In addition, the Executive Director has begun working on a CDR backlog work plan in collaboration with the Executive Committee.

In receiving the SDY grant and restructuring the NCC and K/S Panels, the policy and procedures for the Panels will be revised to meet the grant requirements and new changes. During this revision, the CAN Panel policy and procedures will also be reviewed and updated if necessary.

- c. **Joint CDNDSC/CPAC Meeting.** The Joint CDNDSC/CPAC meeting has been moved to January 22, 2015 at Bayhealth, Kent General Hospital. Teri Covington and Linda Potter from National Child Death Review will be in attendance and will help facilitate Commission discussion regarding 2013 and 2014 CAN case data and recommendations to streamline our processes and develop a clear path forward for Delaware.

## **IV. Updates**

### **a. National Child Death**

- FIMR was asked to speak at the National FIMR Consortium in October. This was based upon Delaware's FIMR Life Course Perspective (LCP) grant received

about a year and half ago, and the Kicks Count program developed in partnership with Delaware Healthy Mother and Infant Consortium (DHMIC). As a result, Delaware FIMR will be featured in a workshop at the AMCHP Conference in January 2015. A second workshop will highlight Delaware's work in child death review, such as Delaware's efforts in infant safe sleeping initiatives.

- NFIMR is currently working with the Michigan Public Health Institute to develop a free web-based database for FIMR. Delaware FIMR is currently using the BASINET system; it is a great system; however, very costly. The NFIMR database will have no associated fees. It is rumored that BASINET will be shutting down in the next year or so, transferring data to the respective state. CDNDSC and FIMR have been participating in a work group to ensure that the information captured in BASINET, and any other information necessary can be in the new FIMR database. This will free up resources to do other things.
- The Sudden Unexpected Death Data Enhancement and Awareness Act (S.2746/H.R.669) passed on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, hand-out provided.
- National Commission to End Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities – Philadelphia Meeting: The meeting was held in Philadelphia jointly with the Casey Family program that brought together researchers from the US, Europe, and New Zealand to discuss predictive risk modeling from different aspects such as medical and criminal justice, as those fields are more advanced than child maltreatment in terms of modeling risks. A main focus, that is also a struggle with the CAN Panel, is the difference between risk factors and risk indicators, and how to begin to sort causal connections. The work of this National Commission will continue into 2015. The Casey Family program has also offered to be of technical assistance to Delaware, not necessarily for the Commission but may be of value to the CAN Panel.

**b. CPAC**

- CPAC raised the issue of recent press reports regarding Child Abuse and Neglect. The CPAC Chair has been in discussion with related parties to address the role that CPAC can play going forward offering assistance.
- Reminder: Joint CDNDSC/CPAC meeting to be held January 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Dr. Kelly presented at the last CPAC meeting regarding the CAN Panel DFS training highlighting the recent initiatives and programs DFS has implemented within the last few years. CPAC members felt that the CAN Panel would benefit from a more in-depth presentation focusing on safety organized practice, structured decision making, and team decision making. Both CDNDSC and CPAC Commissioners would be invited to attend.
- A discussion ensued regarding tracking data for gun violence in children. Tania and Anne have been tasked to work with law enforcement to research the issue. More discussion to come in Executive Session.

**c. DHMIC**

- The Annual DHMIC Summit will be April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington. The meeting will focus on issues of health and safety of women and children.
- The Infant Safe Sleep data has not seen much change as last year. The company responsible for the campaign advises the campaign has not been out long enough to make an impact and see changes. Funding to continue the campaign may not be available. In the future, part of the SDY grant money will be used for safe sleep initiatives.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously decided to approve the Maternal Mortality Review report.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously decided to exit Executive Session.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously decided to adjourn the meeting at 2:09 PM.